

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of retrieving a device-dependent attribute stored on a
5 portal server, said method comprising:
 establishing communication with a device;
 identifying a type of said device;
 identifying a characteristic of said type of device, wherein said type is a
subset of said characteristic; and
10 retrieving an entry from a list of attributes, said entry selected first
 according to said type of device and second according to said characteristic if
 said list does not include an entry that corresponds to said type of device.
2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said communication is wireless.
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3. The method of Claim 1 wherein said type of device is identifiable
by a brand name and a model number.
4. The method of Claim 1 wherein said characteristic is identifiable
20 by a type of markup language used by said type of device.
5. The method of Claim 1 wherein said list of attributes is sorted by
device type.
- 25 6. The method of Claim 1 wherein said list of attributes is sorted by
device characteristic.

7. The method of Claim 1 wherein said list of attributes further comprises entries that are independent of device type and device characteristic.

8. A method of storing device-dependent attributes in a portal server,
5 said method comprising:

receiving information that identifies a type of device for which an attribute is to be stored, wherein said attribute is dependent on said type of device;

selecting said attribute according to said type of device;

entering said attribute into a list of attributes, wherein said list is
10 organized into type-specific categories, wherein said attribute is entered into a category specific to said type of device provided said category exists; and

creating a new category for said attribute provided said category specific to said type of device does not already exist.

15 9. The method of Claim 8 further comprising establishing a connection with a first device, wherein said attribute is entered into a type-specific category corresponding to a type of said first device.

10. The method of Claim 8 further comprising:
20 establishing a connection with a first device; and
receiving information from said first device identifying a second device, wherein said attribute is entered into a type-specific category corresponding to a type of said second device.

25 11. The method of Claim 8 wherein said portal server is a wireless portal server operable to communicate wirelessly with client devices.

12. The method of Claim 8 wherein said type of device is identifiable by a brand name and a model number.

13. The method of Claim 8 wherein said list of attributes is sorted by device type.

14. The method of Claim 8 wherein said list of attributes further comprises a category for attributes that are independent of device type.

15. A computer-usable medium having computer-readable program code embodied therein for causing a portal server system to perform a method comprising:

communicating with a device;

identifying from said communicating a type of device for which a first attribute is to be stored, wherein said first attribute is dependent on said type of device;

associating said type of device with said first attribute when said first attribute is selected and stored in a list of attributes; and

retrieving a second attribute from said list according to said type of device or according to a characteristic of said type of device if said list does not include an attribute that corresponds to said type of device, wherein said type is a subset of said characteristic.

16. The computer-usable medium of Claim 15 wherein said communicating is wireless.

17. The computer-usable medium of Claim 15 wherein said type of device is identifiable by a brand name and a model number.

18. The computer-usable medium of Claim 15 wherein said
5 characteristic is identifiable by a type of markup language used by said type of device.

19. The computer-usable medium of Claim 15 wherein said list of attributes is sorted by device type.

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20. The computer-usable medium of Claim 15 wherein said list of attributes is sorted by device characteristic.

21. The computer-usable medium of Claim 15 wherein said list of
15 attributes further comprises attributes that are independent of device type and device characteristic.

22. The computer-usable medium of Claim 15 wherein said first
attribute corresponds to said device communicating with said portal server
20 system.

23. The computer-usable medium of Claim 15 wherein said first
attribute corresponds to another device different from said device
communicating with said portal server system, said other device identified
25 during said communicating.